

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 05722 072047Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9391
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 05722

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, MX, FI
SUBJECT: MEXICO NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND

1. GOM NAMED DR. MANUEL ALCALA ANAYA AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND MARCH 31. AMBASSADOR ALCALA HAD BEEN SERVING AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARIAT'S ARCHIVES, LIBRARY, AND PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT SINCE OCTOBER 1974. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO PARAGUAY (1971-1974) AND AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO (1965-1970).

2. ALCALA, BORN NOVEMBER 19, 1915 IN MEXICO CITY, IS A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AND TEACHER. HE POSSESSES A PH.D. IN HUMANITIES FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO AND HAD STUDIED AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN LYON, FRANCE. HE HAS TAUGHT LITERATURE AND LATIN AND GREEK CULTURE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO AND AT VASSAR, BRYN MAWR, AND MIDDLEBURY COLLEGES IN THE US. HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN MEXICO CITY (1956-1964) AND IS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE MEXICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE AND THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SPAIN. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN AND HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE OF PORTUGUESE, CATALAN, LATIN, GREEK, AND GERMAN. ALCALA IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER ALICIA BLANCA MALO, WHO IS 14 YEARS HIS JUNIOR AND WHO

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HE MARRIED AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FIRST WIFE. HE HAS THREE CHILDREN FROM HIS FIRST MARRIAGE.

3. THE VERY INTELLIGENT, CULTURED, AND LIKEABLE ALCALA HAS ALWAYS HAD CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS. HE AND HIS WIFE SHOULD BE VALUABLE ADDITIONS TO THE HELSINKI DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. THOMPSON

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